

Billington, Librarian of Congress, and his wife, Marjorie Ann; Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United

Kingdom; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on the Decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court on Same-Sex Marriage

February 4, 2004

Today's ruling of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court is deeply troubling. Marriage is a sacred institution between a man and a woman. If activist judges insist

on redefining marriage by court order, the only alternative will be the constitutional process. We must do what is legally necessary to defend the sanctity of marriage.

Statement on Representative W.J. "Billy" Tauzin's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

February 4, 2004

Billy Tauzin has always been a friend to American consumers and seniors as chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. He is a strong leader

and a good friend, and we will miss his experience and sense of humor. Laura and I wish Billy and Cecile the best.

Remarks at the National Prayer Breakfast

February 5, 2004

Thank you and good morning. Laura and I are honored to join you once again for this annual prayer breakfast. This event brings us together for fellowship, and it's a good chance to see who gets up early in Washington. *[Laughter]*

I appreciate the warm welcome. I appreciate the friendship and the kindred spirit. All of us believe in the power of prayer. And for a lot of people here in Washington, a prayer has been answered with three words: Coach Joe Gibbs. *[Laughter]* Joe is admired for a great career, and even more, he is respected for his convictions and his character. Joe, we're glad to see you back

on the job. I'm all in favor of second terms. *[Laughter]*

This event is also a chance to hear beautiful songs of praise. Shortly, we'll hear the wonderful voice of Twila Paris. And Laura and I were delighted once again to hear the Watoto chorus from Uganda. This is our third time to hear these beautiful voices. I hope to hear them a lot more. These boys and girls have known great sadness and loss, yet their voices carry a message of hope and joy. And we're so glad—so glad—they could be with us here this morning.

I appreciate being in the presence of John Abizaid, our general. He is a decent